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Why increase cares and anxiety? Why not let things move along as best they may? WHAT IS THE USE?

We fear that a feeling of apathy may fall upon the stronger and more zealous teachers, as it has already seized upon the average teacher, and is always found with the idle, careless, or incompetent ones.

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RECENT LITERATURE.

DANA'S MANUAL OF GEOLOGY, THIRD EDITION.¹—The merits of this work as a school-book are well known, and in the present edition they are decidedly enhanced. This is partly due to the introduction of the latest determinations in stratigraphic geology in the West. We observe with pleasure that Prof. Dana has adhered with impartial justice to the law of priority in the nomenclature of the formations of the interior of the continent, in spite of the attempts made by some writers to introduce names of their own, regardless of this necessary safeguard. The value of the work is also increased by the introduction of additional engravings, especially of those representing some of Prof. Marsh's discoveries in the West. It is true the author might have derived some aid from other sources, especially as regards the skull of *Coryphodon*, of which he gives a figure which is quite inaccurate.

We cannot speak in as high terms of the manner in which the palæontology of Vertebrata is represented in the new edition of the manual. It displays little acquaintance with what has been done in this field in North America since 1872, and that includes three-fourths of the entire subject. Thus the greater part of all the principal modern discoveries in the Permian, Triassic, Postcretaceous, Suessonian and Pliocene faunæ are not alluded to, while not a few of those in the Jurassic and Suessonian formations are attributed to other than the original discoverers. The nomenclature employed is that of the vertebrate palæontological papers published in the *American Journal of Science and Arts*, which is notoriously regardless of the rule that names must be only proposed to represent work done, and may not be proposed to secure credit for work yet *to be done*. It is discouraging to the student to be expected to remember names which cannot be used either because they are synonymes or do not refer to necessary descriptions.

THE REFUTATION OF DARWINISM.²—This book is an excellent illustration, if one were needed, of the futility of persons writing on the question of evolution who are not themselves experts in

¹ *Manual of Geology*, etc., with especial reference to American Geological History. New York, Ivison, Blakeman, Taylor & Co., 1880.

² *The Refutation of Darwinism, and the converse theory of Development, based exclusively upon Darwin's facts*, etc. By T. WARREN O'NEILL, member of the Philadelphia Bar. J. B. Lippincott & Co., 1880.

some branch of natural science. A work founded "exclusively upon Darwin's facts," must of necessity strike wide of the mark, for many of the most important evidences for evolution are not to be found, or are barely mentioned in Darwin's works. That Darwinism is not the whole doctrine of evolution is perceived clearly enough by Mr. O'Neill, who devotes two or three opening chapters to a lucid exposition of the well known fact that Natural Selection does not explain the origin of characters. This truth has for twelve years been maintained by the editors of this journal, as well as by others, and has been epitomized in the statement that "the origin of the fittest" is the primary problem of evolution, while the "survival of the fittest" (Darwinism) is secondary.

Mr. O'Neill's "Refutation of Darwinism," however, consists principally of a theory of his own, which is an extension of the principle of reversion to all kinds of variation now observed in domesticated animals; he does not concern himself so much with the wild ones, as they are not so fully considered in Darwin's works. In brief, Mr. O'Neill believes that the present condition of animals is one of degradation from a condition of primitive perfection, which has been brought about by the severity of the struggle for existence! The whole theory is a readaptation of modern knowledge to the mediæval idea of the creation and its degradation, consequent on the fall of man.

There are two little difficulties in the way of this hypothesis. Firstly: since the doctrine of evolution is an attempted explanation of the "origin of species," etc., etc., Mr. O'Neill's work is entirely irrelevant, if true. By reversion he only brings us back to species in their pristine completeness or "physiological integrity," as he calls it; the question of how they attained this condition is not considered. It is fair to add that Mr. O'Neill promises us a work on this subject in a foot note on page 435, which will be, if the author's expectations are realized, a wonderful work indeed.

The second difficulty is presented by the science of palæontology. One should look here for the evidences of reversion to older types, should such have been the law of the later creation. But Mr. O'Neill does not concern himself with this subject. When he does so he will find his primitive "physiological integrity" to be a myth; that development is by divergent advances, not by reversion; and that a struggle for existence, not too severe, has been an agent of good, not of evil.

The book is written in a pleasant style and the author is sometimes witty at Mr. Darwin's expense.

HALLEZ'S NATURAL HISTORY OF TURBELLARIAN WORMS.¹—The first of this series was the elaborate researches on the embryology

¹*Travaux de l'Institut Zoologique de Lille et de la Station maritime de Wimereux.* Fascicule II. Contributions à l'histoire naturelle des Turbellariés. Par PAUL HALLEZ. Lille, 1879. 4to, pp. 213, 11 plates.